in Kerala to Vaigai river of Madurai District of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, whether Government would propose an inter state scheme to link these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Based on preliminary studies, National Water Development Agency has prepared pre-feasibility report for Pamba-Achankovil-Vaigai link for diversion of a part of surplus waters of Pamba and Achankovil rivers in Kerala to drought prone areas in Tamil Nadu and circulated it to basin States.

(c) Undertaking the preparation of a detailed porject report for the inter-State scheme to link these rivers will depend on the response of the basin states to the pre-feasibility report already circulated.

Functioning of Dindigul-Madurai Broad Gauge Rail Line

434. SRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) the amount incurred in 1990-91 for the implementation of Dindigul Madurai Broad Gauge Line formation;

(b) by when the work is expected to be completed?

(c) what is the total cost of the project and how much amount has been spent so far;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to take up immediately the Madurai-Tuticorin Broad Gauge Line formation;

(e) if so, by when the Dindigul-Tuticorin broad Gauge Line formation be completed and by when rail traffic would be started on this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Construction of Broad Gauge Line between Dindigul and Madurai is a part of Karur-Dindigul- Madurai- Maniyachchi- Tuticorin Talaiyuthu new BG rail line project. In 1990-91 Rs. 12.64 crores were spent for this part of the project.

(b) Dindigul-Madurai portion of the project is scheduled for completion in 1992-93.

(c) The anticipated updated cost of this part of the project is Rs. 55.00 crores and expenditure upto 31-3-91 is Rs 28.41 crores.

(d) Work on re-building/strengthening of bridges for BG Line on Madurai-Maniyachchi portion of Madurai-Tuticorin section is in progress.

(e) This would depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.

Loss of mandays due to labour unrest

435. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mandays lost, due to labour unrest in the country in 1990-91;

(b) whether the above trend is increasing or decreasing, year by year;

(c) what steps are being contemplated by Government to minimise the loss of mandays due to labour unrest and agitations; and

(d) whether Government have any programme to give wide publicity to educate the labourers and managements that loss of mandays is National colossal loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Information on mandays lost is maintained by calendar year. Based on the latest available information a statement giving mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts during 1987-90 is attached. The available information exhibits a declining trend over the years.

(c) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch on the industrial relations situation in the country. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the States are taking steps to resolve disputes and reduce work stoppages through preventive mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

(d) The Central Board for Workers' Education conducts various programmes on workers' education at the National, Regional and Units levels for workers in the organised, the unorganised and the rural sector. The subject of loss of mandays is covered by the Board in its programmes at different levels. Besides, need based Seminars on productivity, joint educational programmes for representatives of workers and management, members of joint councils and bipartite committees also lay considerable stress on this subject.

Statement

Mandays lost in the country due to strikes and lockouts during 1987-90 (in millions)

Mandays lost due to Industrial Dispute Reasons

Year	Strikes	Lockout	Total
1987	14.83	21.33	35.36
1988	12.53	21.42	33.95
1989 (P)	10.70	21.99	32.68
1990 (P)	10.22	13.40	23.62

(P) - Provisional

(N.B.)—Total may not necessarily tally due to rounding off of figures.

Support price for paddy

436. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the support price for paddy announced by Government during the last season;

(b) whether the support price is higher than the prevailing open market price of paddy; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the support price, instead of supporting the farmers is doing harm to them, as the procuring authorities are compelling the farmers, to sell their produce at a lower rate than the prevailing market rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The procurement prices announced by the Government for paddy of fair average quality (FAQ) for the 1990-91 season are Rs. 205, Rs. 215 and Rs. 225 per quintal for common, Fine and Superfine varieties respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government agencies procure paddy of FAQ at the procurement prices fixed by the Government. In respect of rice procured from the millers by way of levy, the farmers get the remunerative procurement prices fixed by the Government for paddy though in respect of non-levy part, they obtain higher prevailing market prices. As levy is imposed to maintain the public Distribution System, which serves larger public interest including that of vulnerable sections of the population and as the support prices fixed by the Government are remunerative, it may not be proper to say that the procuring authorities are doing more harm than good to the farmers. It has to be appreciated that procurement prevents exploitation of farmers by trade, especially in the immediate post-harvest period as in the absence of procurement, prices would crash to the detriment of farmers.

Review of Narmada Project

437. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the Narmada Project afresh; and